

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended): ~~A Gas~~ gas switching device for high and medium voltage applications, comprising: at least a mobile arc contact and a corresponding fixed arc contact, and a nozzle having a hollow shaped body which is positioned inside the device around ~~the~~ a zone where electric arcs form between said arc contacts during switching operations, said hollow shaped body having a first portion electrically conductive and a second portion made of electrically insulating material which surrounds at least partially said first portion, wherein said hollow shaped body is mechanically secured directly onto said mobile arc contact by conductive connecting means which is configured so as to electrically connect said mobile arc contact to said first portion.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended): ~~The Gas~~ gas switching device according to claim 1, wherein said second portion has a lower tip part which has a shaped profile so as to act as a puffer cap.

4. (Currently Amended): ~~The Gas~~ gas switching device according to claim 1, wherein said hollow shaped body is ~~realized in~~ a single body with said first portion incorporated in said second portion.

10/582,752

5. (Currently Amended): The Gas gas switching device according to claim 1, wherein said first portion is shaped so as to act as an electric shield.

6. (Currently Amended): The Gas gas switching device according to claim 1, wherein said first portion has a substantially annular shape and is positioned along an inner circumference path of the hollow shaped body.

7. (Currently Amended): The Gas gas switching device according to claim 1, wherein said first portion and /or said second portion comprise moldable materials.

8. (Currently Amended): The Gas gas switching device according to claim 7, wherein said first portion is made of a matrix of substantially moldable insulating material and a conductive filler.

9. (Currently Amended): The Gas gas switching device according to claim 8, wherein the volume of said filler is in the range between ~~0,1%~~ 0.1% and 40% of the total volume of said first portion.

10. (Currently Amended): The Gas gas switching device according to claim 8, wherein the volume of said filler is in the range between ~~0,5%~~ 0.5% and 35% of the total volume of said first portion.

11. (Currently Amended): The Gas gas switching device according to claim 8, wherein the volume of said filler is in the range between 1% and 30% of the total volume of said first portion.

10/582,752

12. (Currently Amended): The Gas gas switching device according to claim 1, wherein the said first portion is substantially made of a metallic piece.

13. (New): The gas switching device according to claim 1, wherein the conductive connecting means comprises a screw.

14. (New): The gas switching device according to claim 1, wherein the conductive connecting means comprises a rivet.